

Message Text

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ACTION STR-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 STRE-00 FEA-01
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6816
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, MTN, IN
SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS: ALMONDS

1. VICE PRESIDENT (MARKETING) FOR THE CALIFORNIA ALMOND GROWERS EXCHANGE (CAGE), WALTER PAYNE, VISITED INDIA WEEK OF OCTOBER 3 TO MEET WITH TRADE REPS AND OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. ALTHOUGH COMMERCE SECRETARY ALEXANDER HAD PLANNED TO MEET WITH PAYNE, HE WAS UNABLE TO AT LAST MINUTE AND PAYNE WAS RECEIVED BY ADDITIONAL SECRETARY P.K. KAUL AND BY K.V. SESHADRI, CHIEF CONTROLLER OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS. ACCORDING TO S. SURJ, DEPUTY SECRETARY HANDLING US AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY, ALEXANDER HAD DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH KAUL BEFORE MEETING TOOK PLACE, AND KAUL FULLY REFLECTED ALEXANDER'S PERSONAL VIEWS.

2. GOI OFFICIALS APPEARED INTERESTED IN SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT RS. 10,000 LIMIT ON ALMOND IMPORT LICENSES. THEY WANTED, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE TO MEET THEIR
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OBJECTIVES OF (A) BREAKING THE IMPORT MONOPOLY TRADITIONALLY EXERCISED BY A FEW LARGE-SCALE DEALERS, AND (B) MODERATING THE PRICE AT WHICH ALMONDS ARE AVAILABLE AT RETAIL. PAYNE AND AG ATTACHE CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH FEELING THAT THERE WAS A REASONABLE HOPE FOR SOME IMPROVEMENT IN PROCEDURES, BUT IT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING CURRENT INDIAN FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1978.

3. INCONVERSATION OCTOBER 12, SURI TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD "PERSONAL FEELING" THAT PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED AND CHANGES IN GOI PROCEDURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH INCORPORATION IN ANNUAL IMPORT POLICY GUIDELINES ISSUED ON APRIL 1. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS SATISFACTORY TO US TRADE INTERESTS INASMUCH AS SUPPLY COMMITMENTS FROM THE NEXT CROP WILL ONLY BE MADE DURING THE SPRING 1978. (COMMENT: AG ATTACHE BELIEVES SURI'S UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT.) EMBOFF CALLED SURI'S ATTENTION TO OTHER TIME FACTOR INVOLVED IN ALMOND CASE, I.E. CONSIDERATION IN MTN TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONTEXT; AND TOLD HIM THAT, ON CONVERSATION IN GENEVA LAST MONTH, INDIAN REP TO MTN PREM KUMAR HAD ASSURED EMBOFF THAT LICENSING RULES WOULD BE READILY IMPROVED THROUGH PROVISION FOR "CLUBBING". SURI THOUGH POSTPONING ACTUAL CHANGES UNTIL APRIL WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE GOI WOULD "GIVE ASSURANCES" THAT CHANGES WOULD BE MADE.

4. ECON COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF PURSUED SUBJECT WITH MINCOMMERCE JOINT SECRETARY S.P. SHUKLA (HANDLING MTN) ON OCTOBER 14. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE STATUS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS ISSUE WAS STILL VERY MUCH UP IN AIR, IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF POSITIVE GOI APPROACH TO ALMONDS PROBLEM COULD NOT BE GIVEN CONCRETE FORM AT THIS TIME. SHUKLA SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER, BUT GAVE NO ASSURANCES ON ACTION.

GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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